



# WFP Lesotho Country Brief

## Highlights

- 36,500 people in Leribe, Berea, Maseru, Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek received food support from USAID/PEPFAR under the categories of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV, people receiving antiretroviral therapy or treatment for tuberculosis and orphans and vulnerable children.
- 11,166 children aged 6-23 months in Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, and Mohale's Hoek received super cereal plus under the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme.
- For October 2017 to March 2018 **224,664** are estimated to be food insecure.

## WFP Assistance

Country Programme Lesotho	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	4 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
CP 200369 (2013-2017)	41.5 m	23 m (56%)	0.8 m

\*September - December 2017

The Country Programme (CP) comprises two components: Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) and Nutrition support and HIV support. The CP supports preparedness for primary education among pre-school students and assists the Government's efforts in the prevention and treatment of undernutrition. The CP also tackles malnutrition with strategies that improve the socio-economic status of communities. The strategies include: implementing supplementary feeding programmes, advocacy for an increased national budget for nutrition, strengthening community linkages, implementing sustainable livelihood interventions, scaling up research and information sharing as well as building strong partnerships. WFP intensified its fundraising activities to continue the CP's long term objectives and address food insecurity caused by the El Niño drought.

School Meals Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
Trust Fund (TF) 200771: (2015-2017)	15.5 m	8m (52%)

WFP provides 189,511 children in 921 primary schools with morning porridge and a lunch meal of maize with either beans or peas through the School Meals Programme, which is fully funded by the Government. The meals provide micronutrients and improve the learning environment, increasing enrolment and attendance and reducing dropout rates. With regard to the El Niño-induced drought, the meals served as an effective safety net for children from food insecure families. WFP also supports the Government's education strategy of free and compulsory primary education.

Support to Drought Affected population	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	4 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200980 (June 2016-Dec 2017)	26.7 m	13.2 m (49%)	2.7 m

\* September - December 2017

### GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200980

Per the (June 2016) annual Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee report (LVAC) by the height of the 2016/17 lean season, the number of food insecure people was projected at **709,000**. Of these, **491,000** people were in urgent need of emergency assistance.

The 2017 LVAC results were presented through the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and two periods have been used to estimate the population in need. For the current period (July 2017 to September 2017) – the food insecure population is estimated at **179,043** people. For the projected period (October 2017 to March 2018), the food insecure population is estimated at **224,664** people. Leribe and Butha-Buthe districts are in Phase 1, while the remaining districts are in Phase 2, with the exception of Mohale's Hoek district that is in phase 3.

## In Numbers

**179,043** Food insecure people (IPC phase 3)

**47,666** People Assisted in August

People Assisted  
In 2017

55%



45%



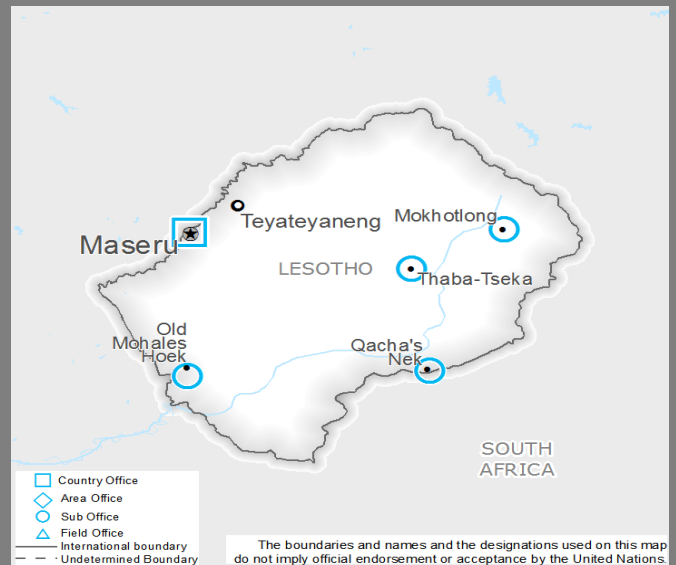
## Operational Updates

- WFP Lesotho assisted 11,166 children aged 6 to 23 months (5,308 boys and 5,858 girls) in the three districts of Maseru's Hoek, Thaba Tseka and Mokhotlong, to prevent stunting and micronutrient deficiencies. WFP is supporting the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) to conduct an evaluation of the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) in the four districts. Data collection started in August 2017 and its being carried out concurrently with food distributions for three months.
- During the month of August, the USAID/PEPFAR supported programme reached 25,000 Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) and 11,500 safety net beneficiaries with 307 MT of the family ration (maize meal, pulses and oil) in the districts of Leribe, Berea, Maseru, Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek.
- Third quarter 2017 deliveries of food commodities for 189,511 primary schools pupils and 50,000 children in Early Childhood Care and Development centres were completed as planned.
- WFP together with other partners supported Lesotho USAID office to organise and coordinate the visit of the Senior Nutrition Advisor in the USAID Office of HIV/AIDS during his 13 to 17 August 2017 mission to Lesotho. The mission was to check progress of the PEPFAR Drought Mitigation Response Programme, identify gaps and opportunities to strengthen the nutrition activities for people with HIV in Lesotho. The mission activities comprised meetings with the Government and partners, presentations on progress and programme challenges as well as site visits.
- WFP, World Health Organisation (WHO) and the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) are supporting the government to conduct the Zero Hunger Strategic review. National consultations have started mid-August and expected to end first week of September 2017. The Zero Hunger team met with His Majesty to brief him on the project and progress made thus far.
- Following the closure of the Relief component in June 2017, WFP conducted an After-Action Review meeting in August to document achievements, challenges and lessons learned. The Recovery component will continue until end of the year assisting a total of 1,700 households representing 8,500 people.

## Challenges

- The release funds for the second half of 2017 for school meals programme have been delayed by the Ministry of Education and Training with the postponement in the presentation of the national budget. This delays procurement of commodities for the remaining period of the year.
- The Recovery activities that were planned to continue to the end of the year still face a funding shortfall of USD2. 7 million.
- There is a funding shortfall of USD 0.8 million, from September to December 2017, to cover the Care and Treatment and Supplementary Feeding components of the Country Programme.

## Country Background & Strategy



More than half (57 percent) of Lesotho's people live on less than one dollar per day. Lesotho's GDP stands at USD 2.2 billion while its national gross income per capita is USD 1,500 (World Bank). Revenue from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) contributes a significant proportion to Lesotho's national budget. The Government allocates seven percent of its national budget to safety nets such as school feeding, pension for the elderly, child grants and cash for work.

The population's high vulnerability is exacerbated by recurring climatic hazards, including droughts, early frost and a low performing economy. As a result, 29 percent of people below the age of 35 years are unemployed. The country is also characterized by an extremely high HIV prevalence rate (25 percent) and has to provide care for more than 250,000 orphaned children, most of whom lost their parents to AIDS. Life expectancy stands at 49 years.

Agriculture, which contributes seven percent to the GDP, is a major source of livelihood for 80 percent of the population living in rural areas.

WFP supports the Government's efforts to build the resilience of communities frequently affected by climatic hazards, with the view to stimulate agricultural production.

WFP has been present in Lesotho since 1965.

Population: **2.1 million**

2015 Human Development Index:  
**161 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **33% of children between 6-59 months**

## Donors

The Government of Lesotho, Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, Switzerland, CERF, ECHO, World Bank, GFDRR, WFP Multilateral and private donors

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